

REMARKS

1. The application was filed with 23 claims, all of which are still pending. The Office Action rejects Claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,914,671 to John Tuttle ("Tuttle"). The rejection states that Tuttle discloses all the limitations of the inventions claimed in Claims 1-23.

2. Applicants traverse the rejections on the grounds that the reference does not describe or suggest all the limitations claimed in the claimed inventions. For instance, Claim 3 claims the method of Claim 1, a method for conducting check-in for transportation for a passenger having a radio frequency identification card, Claim 3 further comprising a step of printing a confirmation of the check-in, and wherein certain information is printed. This limitation is not described or suggested in the reference. The passage cited, col. 1, lines 48-53, does not mention printing a confirmation of the check in. Claim 1 has been amended to include this limitation from Claim 3.

Claim 9 claims the method of Claim 1, further comprising a step for matching the passenger with baggage and detecting whether a passenger with baggage has checked in. The passage cited, col. 16, lines 1-6, concerns a computer database for storing information about passengers who have purchased tickets. This passage does not concern matching the passenger with his baggage and determining whether a passenger with baggage has checked in.

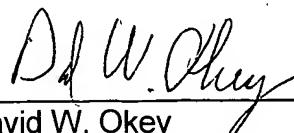
Independent Claim 13 recites a radio frequency check in system that includes "a first passage controlled by the processing means", while independent Claim 21 recites "a passage controlled by the computer means". The rejection lists no corresponding element in the referenced Tuttle patent. Note that the mere reference to a "gate area" does not anticipate these limitations of Claims 13 and 21, since a "gate" at an airport is not structurally similar to a "gate" of a fence; a "gate" in modern airport usage denotes a boarding area of an airport, not a "first passage" as claimed. See Tuttle, col. 16, lines 17-19 and lines 29-31.

Claim 15 recites that the detector of Claim 13 is not merely a reader but a “long range reader” of radio frequency identification cards. For instance, the specification of the present invention describes one embodiment that uses radio frequency identification cards at a frequency of 13.56 MHz. This limitation is not described or suggested in the Tuttle reference, which mentions 2.44 GHz. As noted in the specification in the paragraph beginning on p. 5, at line 26, and ending on p. 6, line 7, 13.56 MHz cards are a preferred embodiment because RFID systems may “read” the card at longer range, and are less sensitive to the orientation of the card, with an ability to penetrate body tissue. RFID systems using 2.44 GHz, such as those described in Tuttle, cannot penetrate body tissues and may thus be blocked from the antenna by a person’s body. Perhaps that is why the Tuttle reference requires a plurality of transmitter antennae, X1, X2, X3, and receiver antennae, R1, R2, R3, as shown in Tuttle, Fig. 7. The reference does not describe or suggest the limitation of a “long range reader” of radio frequency identification cards, and thus does not anticipate Claim 15. Because Claim 21 also claims a long range reader, Claim 21 is also not anticipated.

Claim 17 claims that the first passage is selected from a group of particular passages, the first passage, as required by Claim 13, controlled by the processing means. The rejection states that this limitation is anticipated by col. 16, lines 27-37 of Tuttle, and that Tuttle also anticipates a second passage, required by Claim 18, at col. 17, lines 37-41. The first citation from Tuttle mentions a gate area, but neither citation mentions a passage, such as a barrier or a door, that is controlled by a computer or the processing means. As discussed above with reference to Claim 13, a “gate area” is much more akin to a boarding area than a “passage,” and in any case, is not controlled by a computer or the processing means. Accordingly, the reference does not anticipate Claims 17-18.

3. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 3 and 10 to better define the invention. Each independent claim includes at least one limitation not described or suggested in the cited art. The Examiner is requested to enter the amendment, to reconsider the application, and to advance the claims to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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